

Join Together Atlantic County

January 11, 2016
New Day Family Success Center
622-624 New York Road,
Galloway NJ 08205

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents: Ted Khoury, Tracy Smith

Law Enforcement: Chief John DeRitis (Absecon PD)

Govt Agency: Charlie Kerley (Atlantic County Alliance Coordinator), Kathryn Saxton-Granato (CIACC)

School:

Youth Service Org: George Dannenhauer & Jake Straughn (TRY-IT)

Healthcare:

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business:

Media: Bill Lynskey (Glory Days Magazine)

Civic/Volunteer: John Livezey (Brigantine Municipal Alliance)

Other Org.: John Seidel (Our Place Recovery), Kurt Ohlson (CODI)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Kathy McFadden, Brian Wilson

Guest/Other: Tavana Hooks (NJ Superior Court)

Introductions/Sign In, Review Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the previous meeting. Motion to approve minutes – 1st Kathryn Saxton-Granato, 2nd Charlie Kerley .

Internal Coalition Business:

DFC Year 4 Action Plan/Budget - is due on January 25th. Laurie will be emailing coalition members action plan and budget for review and for suggestions for interventions.

PRIDE Survey –The PRIDE Survey has been completed. JTAC coordinated this project with Charlie Kerley and Bob Widitz from Atlantic County. Most schools in Atlantic County participated except for the following - Hammonton, Absecon, Northfield, Somers Point and Pleasantville schools did not participate. Egg Harbor Township participated, but did not complete until the day before winter break. Reasons these other schools did not participate included staffing issues, PARCC testing and state survey being conducted. We will have results by next meeting. We will post the County results on JTAC website. Ben Mount from Atlantic County is doing YRBS Survey. The YRBS Survey focuses on ATOD as well as other healthy lifestyle choices. The survey is given to 9th and 11th high school students. We will need that data as well, for our grant.

Member Training Naloxone – JTAC held Naloxone/TOPAC training at Atlantic Prevention Resources in Pleasantville. There were about a dozen people that participated in this training. The training was on how to administer the injectable naloxone. You may contact Charlie to find out more information on how to set up training. Urban Treatment Associates was recently awarded the grant to do nasal Naloxone trainings. Atlantic County has the highest rate of heroin overdoses in the state. Not all police are carrying Naloxone, in those locations EMT's have Naloxone on calls. There is a very short shelf life with this antidote of about 6 months. The nasal injectable is a little long with about an 18 month shelf life. Kathryn happened to have practice sample injectable that she demonstrated on herself for all of us in attendance at this meeting. It was suggested they we have the RA trained at Stockton. JTAC has already approached Stockton were the police expressed concern with them being trained and assured us that they have it under control since they currently carry and have a very rapid response time.

NJPN 16th Annual Addiction Conference – Each year NJPN has a conference in Atlantic City focusing on substance abuse prevention and treatment. This year the event will take place on Friday April 29th, at the Atlantic City Convention Center. JTAC has purchased about 10 spots for members to attend. If any member is interested you must contact Laurie. This event is well attended with over 1000 people. There are many different workshops and great key note speakers. A light continental breakfast is served and a full lunch. CEUs have been offered in the past.

JTAC Logo – The suggested changes that were discussed at the last meeting have been made. One of our work study students was responsible for developing and making changes to the logo. This will be finalized before next meeting.

Location/times – It was suggested we consider moving the JTAC meeting to a different location. The JTAC meetings are averaging around 20 members per meeting and the current location is becoming too small. A suggestion was made to move it to the Atlantic County Shoreview building/ IDRC room. We will look further into this. Also it was suggested to have meeting time rotate between morning and evening.

Interventions/Updates:

Never Alone Youth Meeting – This is a “peer to peer” youth group for ages 13 through 19. This group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings at the Hope All Day Recovery center. When this group first started we were having great turnouts averaging around 20 youth per meeting. Recently these numbers have dwindled down to just a few youth attending and the youth organizers are getting very discouraged. Some of the issues are that many youth are unaware of the meeting, have trouble with transportation, and are not getting referrals. JTAC has met with certain people from probation department to let them know of the services being offered, but however the message is not being relayed to the local officers. JTAC would like to see the courts mandate that these youth have to attend some sort of support group like this. Also making sure all area of the juvenile courts and probation are

aware of the services. Tracy suggested they we temporarily suspend/pause the program to allow us time to regroup and to figure out additional ways to get youth involved.

Linking Youth to Services-

Many youth in our county are suffering with different substance abuse issues and are not forced to take advantage of the services offered to them. This workgroups focus is to bridge that gap by getting youth who are found by their schools or police to be using to get the help they need. Retired Judge Jackson was in attendance at the last meeting. He spoke about how the judge's power is not limited by JDAI even though it may seem that the youth do not need to comply with the services offered. He said there is a way to get them to comply and do what the courts want. He believes these youth need to be scared and given direction on what they need to do. However the Judge was taken aback by some of the issues he heard are currently taking place in the juvenile court. This group hopes to meet with all of the stakeholders including the new juvenile court judge and work together to eliminate some of these very concerning issues, as well as encourage schools and local police departments to mandate evaluations and/or counseling for youth.

Prescription Drop Boxes – Since the last JTAC meeting we have placed a drop box in Galloway Twp. and Margate City Police Departments. Margate had a drop box that they purchased and were using for the collection of prescription drugs, but was not participating in a program. The box they had was extremely small limiting the amount in which they could collect. To date we have successfully placed 5 of the 8 boxes that we purchased. We have reached out to many of the other department throughout the county. Some of those departments are just not ready to undertake this due to staffing and/or budget reasons. However some have expressed interest and we are currently working with them. We have 3 drop boxes left in storage that we are trying to place. Absecon Chief DeRitis was in attendance at the meeting and said they are going to take the necessary steps to get a box in their department.

School Policy – Laurie will begin attending SAC meetings. Ted Khoury spoke briefly about Mainland Regional High School. Currently any student participating in any extracurricular activities can/will be drug tested randomly. Also school is currently looking into and will eventually implement a new program/curriculum that will educate students consistently instead of just once a year in health class about the harmful and legal consequences of substance abuse. This may be incorporated into something like an English class. This will also teach school staff, educators, bus drivers, coaches and any other adult with interaction with students the signs to look for when students are misusing drug and or alcohol. This is a program that is already in use at another school district in the State.

Medicine Cabinets – Stockton University is still planning on taking 100 of these medicine cabinets for their students. They are currently working out details with their facilities department. Need to figure out keys systems and where to store the extra keys.

Opiate task force – 2nd meeting was held on January 7th at the Atlantic County Prosecutor's office. The first meeting discussed opiate issues each sector was facing and the 2nd meetings discussed possible intervention's that include: Faith based resources, police resources guide, Do No Harm Symposium for physicians and faith based groups, in-service trainings for police and school staff. Naloxone being carried by all police departments.

2016 Prevention/Recovery Rally workgroups - Sheet was passed around to sign up for workgroup. We have discussed due to other events taking place in September we may have a rally/event in the Spring and send a bus of JTAC members to Philadelphia's PRO- ACT Walk in September to participate.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition – Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday February 25th at 9:00am

SUAR Update – We recently had a sticker shock at both Joe Canal's Liquor Stores in Egg Harbor Township on December 29th.

New Business:

Service Learning - We will be partnering up with Stockton University service learning again in the Spring. These students have been a huge asset to us the past few years assisting us with many different projects.

Youth Summit – This year the youth summit will take place on April 8th once again at Stockton University.

If Only Viewing – Will be held out at Stockton on Friday February 26th at 6:30pm. John Seidel explained that this video was created by Our Place Recovery and the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. It was developed to show youth the deadly consequences of opiate abuse. It shows two separate youth that are struggling with opiate addiction. One of the youth gets treatment and the other does not. The video is about 25 minutes long. JTAC will help promote this event through advertising and social media posts.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Hope All Day's lease is coming to an end and they will no longer be able to use their current location. They have posted on social media and sent out an email that Laurie read to the group. They are asking for help and support. If anyone knows of a possible location that may work for them they are asked to contact Chris Macomber at Hope All Day. They are looking for a location that would be donated to them that is approximately 4000sqf. They would take care of all expenses and upgrades if needed. They are very optimistic and are looking forward to the change. The current location owners may use this location for some type of treatment facility, but we are not quite sure to what capacity.

Tracy Smith – Announced that she will be starting her own speaker's bureau business focusing on substance abuse – prevention, treatment and recovery. This will be for the NJ, NY and PA area. She is currently working out details and will have further information in the coming month.

Kurt Ohlson with CODI announced their Community Work Experience Program for people who are receiving welfare. Welfare to Work - These welfare recipients must work to continue to receive their benefits. This is FREE labor for any agency in Atlantic County that is interested. Application forms were left for anyone interested. CODI hand selects workers for your agency. They can start whenever you need them. If anyone is interested and didn't get a form you can contact Kurt Ohlson at CODI.

CODI has a DRA Dual Recovery Anonymous meeting every Tuesday at 2:00pm.

Kathryn announced a training on Motivational Interviewing on March 8th, CEU's will be available.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 14th 11:00am – 1:00pm, Location TBA.